

# Mid-Atlantic Integrated Action (MAIA) Research/Outcomes

## Moving from Assessment to Outcome-Based Collaborative Action

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### SCIENCE QUESTION:

*How does ORD ensure that high-quality data and science will lead to measurable environmental and socio-economic outcomes?*

### BACKGROUND:

EPA focused its research and monitoring towards meeting regulatory requirements to:

- protect air and water quality,
- control the use of pesticides and toxic substances,
- ensure the safe production, handling and disposal of industrial chemicals, and
- clean up abandoned hazardous waste sites.

This focus did not:

- provide a comprehensive picture of the nation's natural resources,
- address many existing and emerging environmental problems (e.g., climate change, acid rain, loss of biological diversity), or
- address issues at various scales (local, state, watershed, regional, national, global).

In 1995, Region 3:

- recognized the need to change how data and science were used in its decision-making,
- entered into a partnership with the Office of Research and Development (ORD) to form the Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment Program (MAIA).

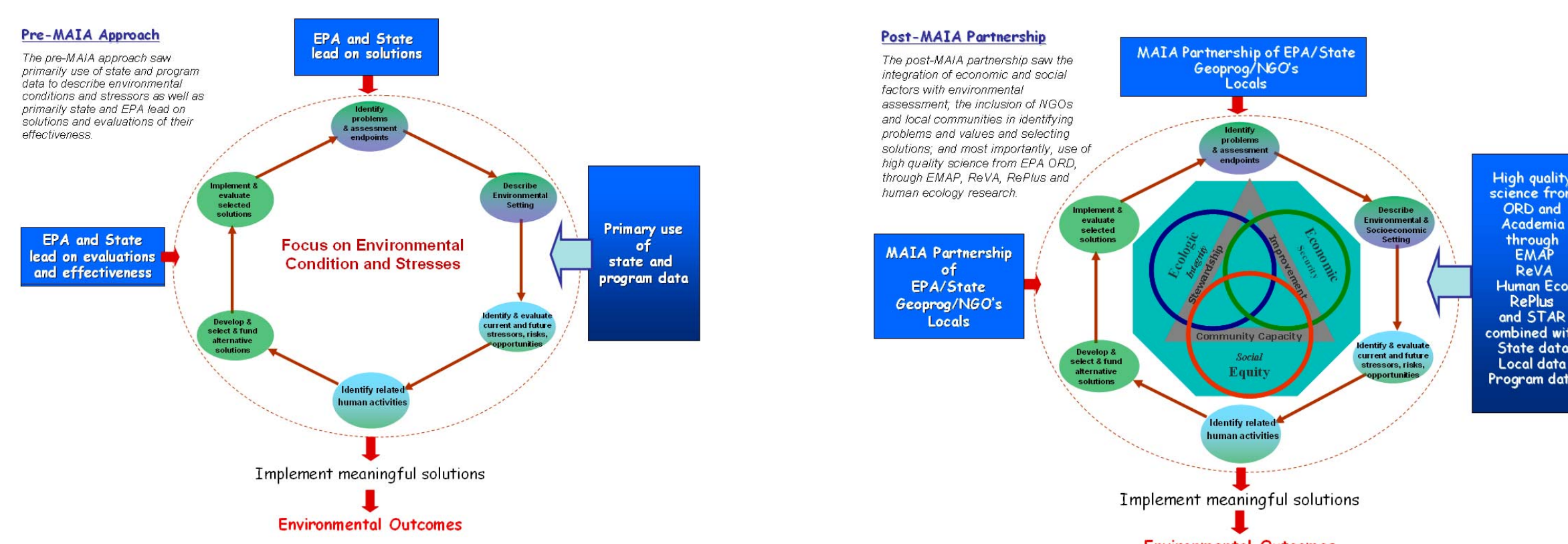
For the past 10 years, MAIA has transferred research, monitoring, and assessment results to managers in the Mid-Atlantic region.

MAIA has evolved into the Mid-Atlantic Integrated Action Program.

### PROCESS:

The MAIA Team jointly and simultaneously worked with ORD scientists, academia, and state, regional and local program managers to plan, develop, and implement a "science-for-outcomes-program." Research questions were used as the integrator: always making science clear and understandable for managers; making research relevant to the managers' needs; and ultimately building on-going interactive teams of managers and scientists. These collaborative networks progress through a continuum:

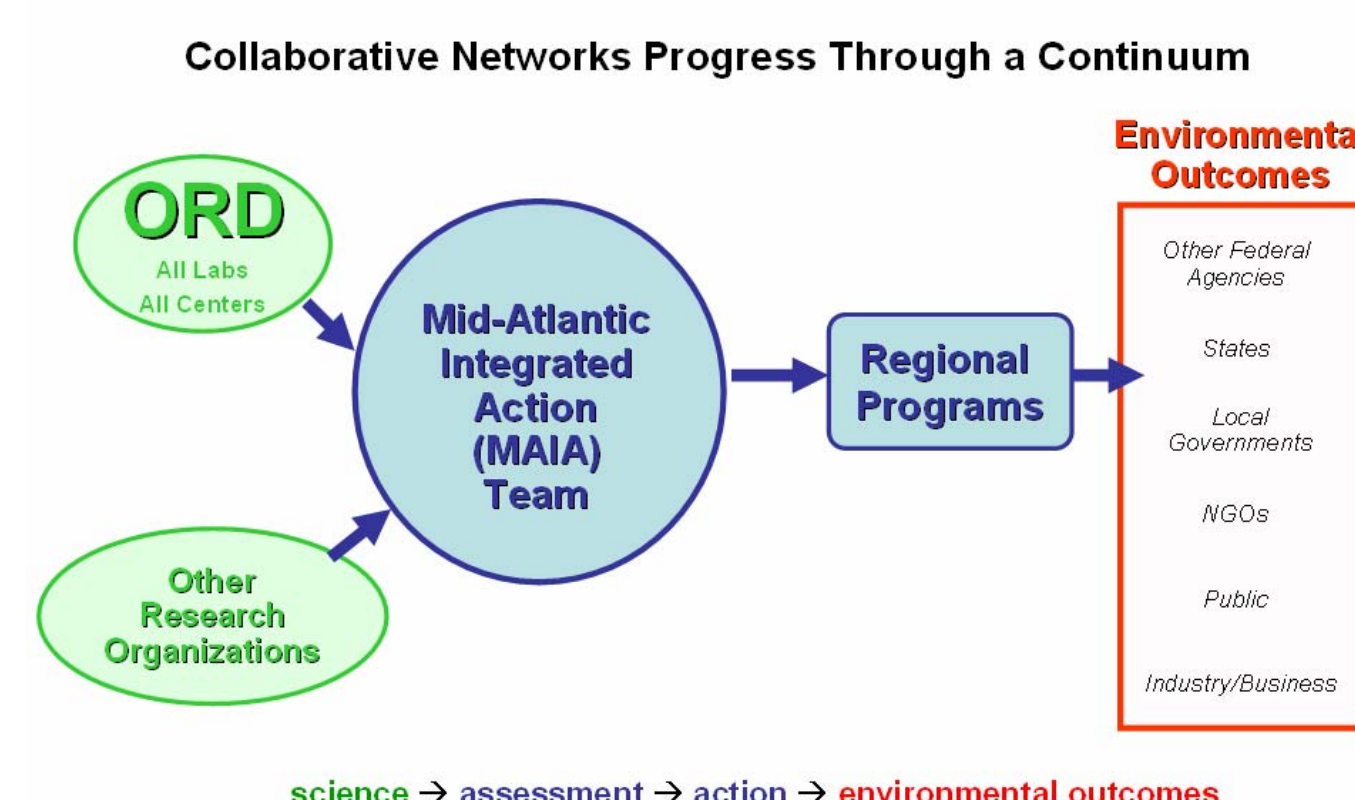
science → assessment → action → **environmental outcomes**



### INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION:

Since its establishment in 1995, MAIA has forged alliances with other federal, state and local agencies, producing an array of useful products on the ecological condition of the Mid-Atlantic Region.

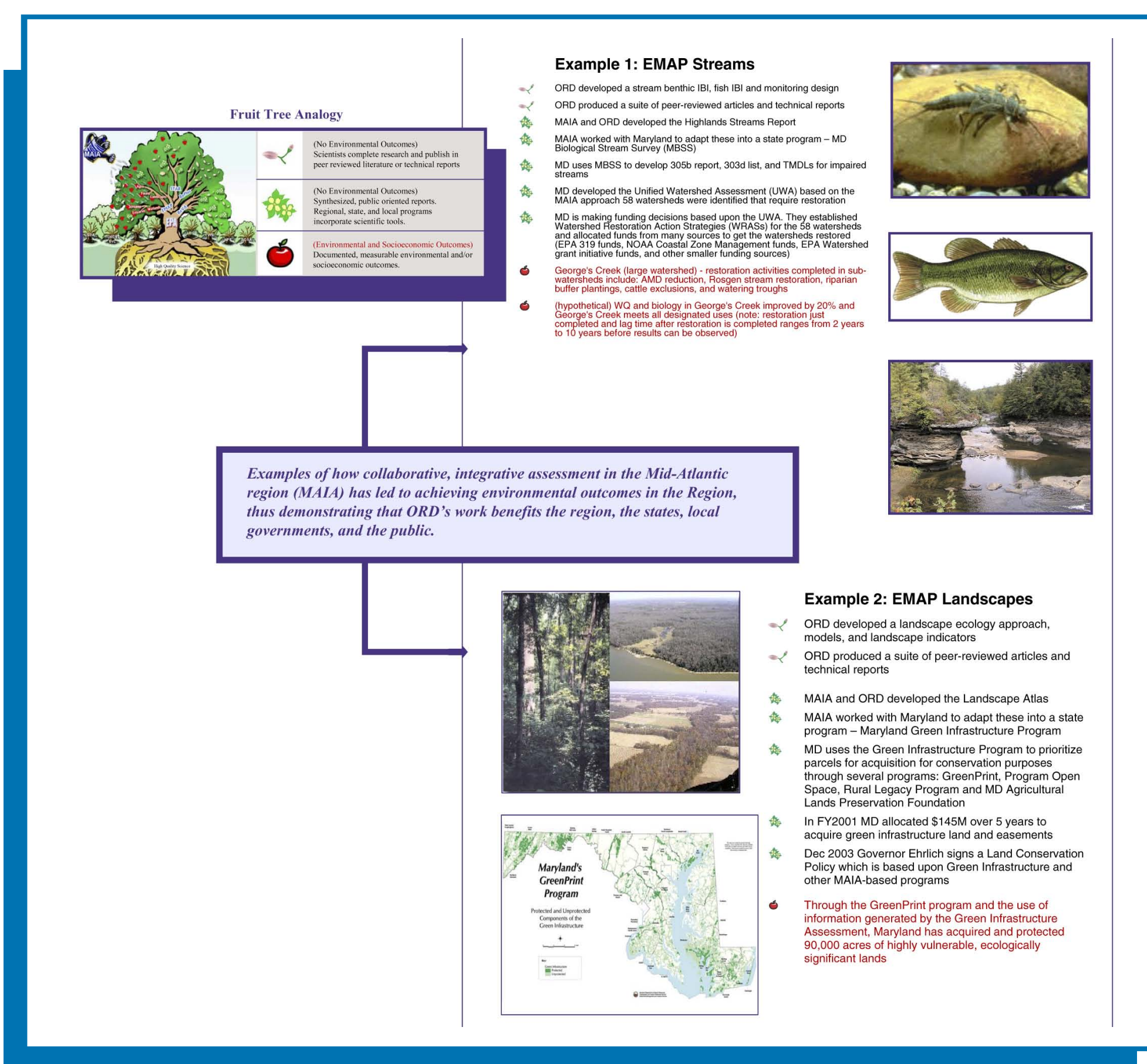
MAIA has begun to build on this foundation and create an arena in which innovative approaches for environmental assessment and management can be proven, implemented, refined, and subsequently, communicated and transferred not only to MAIA partners, but also to other EPA Regions, federal, state, and local agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the public, and other stakeholders.



### IMPACTS:

- The ORD-Region 3 collaboration, MAIA, has integrated high quality science into the Region.
- The Mid-Atlantic region is now one of the best characterized areas in the world.
- Resources are being allocated based on high quality science to meet desired environmental and socio-economic outcomes.
- This has increased the probability of reaching desirable and sustainable environmental solutions at the federal, state, and local levels.

### ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES:



### FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

The next generation of research should:

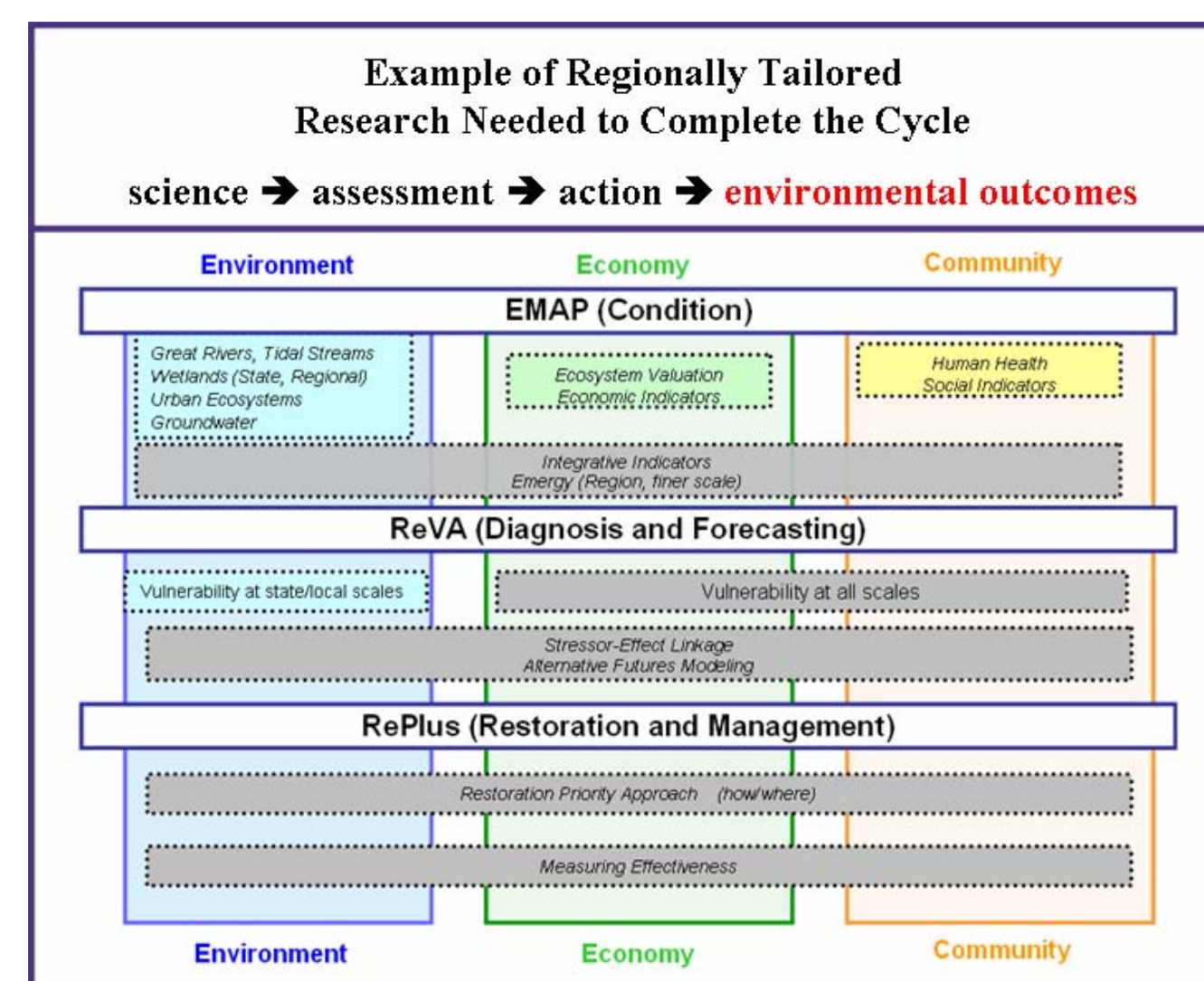
- Plan from the beginning to reach outcomes
- Involve all partners needed to reach outcomes

Environmental research that considers ecology, human health, socio-economics and other scientific disciplines in an integrated manner will lead to more comprehensive environmental protection.

Regionally tailored research is needed to complete the cycle.

ORD and Region 3's MAIA program is a national template.

ORD and the Regions should consider Regional Integrated Action Teams (RIATs) to facilitate interactions with partners.



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